Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Crinkill - Críonchoill**	Ref:	**530**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**367**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**18/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	56
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	38	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	26	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**358**	**367**

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte go Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur gceantar go dtí seo - guíonn muid gach rath oraibh in bhur dtionscadail amach anseo.
Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition and thank you for your completed application form which included photos, map and your Plan. Your 5 year plan needs to be updated. The one you sent us was 2020-2025. We also advise that you revise this format and add some columns. One with the names of collaborators (you'll need help with some projects), one with the name of the committee member who will lead/advance the project. (sharing the responsibility between the members), and then another which is updated annually showing progress - put a tick when you have progressed in the activity/project or just state 'competed', 'ongoing' or 'shelved'. Thank you for offering to be our guide but the judging is anonymous and so meeting with a member of the committee is not possible. We opened your Crinkill Tidy Village Facebook page and see that you have almost 1K followers. We noticed that the majority of posts concern your 50/50 Fundraising Draw. In order to keep followers interested in your work and to gain new followers, you need to post regularly on other subjects – information/photos of activities, projects, flowers, birds, insects etc. Your committee of 24 is extremely large – hopefully you have divided this group into sub-groups. In addition you have 22 volunteers who are there when you need additional support. Good to read that new residents have come to support you and have joined the committee. In addition to state and semi organisations, you also list the local schools and voluntary groups who assist you. This is your 24th year entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition and we hope that our reports have assisted you with ideas for your village. We read it 'has helped the village become more organised, more ambitious and more strategic in its planning, while strengthening pride in place, partnership-building and long-term thinking'. We hope that you've also enjoyed your work, seeing your community grow.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

We were delighted to see, that although you are located almost as a suburb of Birr, there is farmland around you giving you your village atmosphere. Crinkill has a wonderful military history and it is good to see that you celebrate this. We read, elsewhere, that the barracks was built in the early 1800s and that the buildings were demolished in 1985. Now all that remains are the perimeter walls and some entrance gates and we are pleased to see that you celebrate these. It's wonderful that you have developed a Heritage and Military Trail which not only informed visitors of these features, but also inform locals and new residents about their village. As Crinkill is close to Birr, the commercial areas are minimal, but we are delighted to see that you have a local grocery store, bar and restaurant and hardware shop. We admired the street and road name signs but they need to be cleaned. We particularly admired the presentation of The Thatch. Please command the owners for presenting their premises in such a manner which adds to the beauty of the streetscape – freshly painted walls, colourful flowers in baskets and

planters and cobbled area which complimented the building. The mural at the top of Military Road shows the old barracks structures surrounding the parade ground in addition to some military on parade. We note that you have some unoccupied buildings which we hope will soon be used. Unoccupancy after a very short space of time leads to dereliction. Do you know of the plans for these buildings? We saw that some of these unoccupied buildings are/ were commercial premises. We strongly advise that the freeze and shopfront are retained should planning permission be granted for residential use. These are part of the social history of your village and you should retain these. The shop names should be re-instated.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your tree lined Military Road entrance is very beautifully maintained, and we admired the planting beds in between. To give the maximum impact in an area, such as this, it's always best to plant one variety and we see that you/ Offaly Co. Co. were aware of this. Well done to the horticulture advisor. Your Soldier's Garden is developing very well, but we advise you to control the development so that it doesn't become cluttered with objects. The planting beds in this garden are wonderful but take care in the remainder of the development. It might be an idea at this stage to engage a qualified landscape architect who will provide vision for the overall design concept. We were delighted to see the large number of trees in Crinkill. Now with global warming, we will need trees as shelter in both summer and winter. While trees are recognised as important habitats for insects, birds, bats and squirrels their canopies also prevent up to 90% of the sun's rays reaching the ground. We visited the military cemetery, which is quite beautiful. We suggest you trim a narrow margin at the edge of the path so that it is obvious that the grass on both sides are left long intentionally. Was there chemical weed killer used at some stage (in the recent past) along this path? Needless to say this is not acceptable. We loved that the rendered block wall of the GAA grounds have been planted with ivy. This will create a wonderful biodiversity corridor in time.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Having fields around your village, tree lined roads, great stone walls, you have a diverse range habitats in for insects, birds, mammals, and invertebrates. You have a wonderful variety of flowers in the planting beds in the Soldiers' Garden which were admired and which were buzzing with insects when we visited. There is a lovely wildflower meadow at the entrance to Grant Engineering. It would be good if this was allowed to grow every year. Advise the company to cut the area in September and remove the cut grass so that the ground is starved of nutrients thus encouraging the growth of wildflowers. It was lovely to see the photo of the bee orchid on your Facebook page – you should do more of this. Do you know what birds are in Crinkill? This is something easy to do and when complete, you could put that information on your Facebook page. Have you thought about a Nature Trail, where you can bring adults and children? Ask the Heritage officer in Offaly Co. Co. Or indeed other TidyTowns groups to give you a list of those who are qualified to undertake this? We see that you have many projects in the planning stage so we will wait for those and look forward to seeing them develop.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

When this category was introduced it was one where many communities struggled. Now we know that it is about how, in our daily lives, we cut down on waste and in this way are aware of how we use the planets resources. We expect TidyTowns committees and volunteers to lead by example.
We noted the fruit trees in the Soldier's Garden. It would be wonderful if that whole area of the green was planted with fruit trees and fruit bushes. We are delighted to read that you collect seeds from your planting beds. But what do you do with them? Do you make them available for the community to plant in their gardens? Putting them into envelopes and giving them to the community? You must tell us. Do you know what does the local restaurant do with its waste coffee grinds? These can be sprinkled around the ground of acid-loving and nitrogen-hungry plants such as azaleas, roses, hydrangeas and blueberries. Perhaps you might arrange that these would be given to the community for their gardens. Do you know what your gardeners do with the plants they divide which have become overgrown? Perhaps organise a plant swap day for some time in September/October. This to be advertised on your Facebook page. We have no doubt that many gardeners would be very happy to receive new varieties of plants for their gardens. Have you thought about becoming involved in vegetable planting with the local school? Another project for you and one which will show them the simplicity of growing delicious fresh food.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We love when we read that TidyTowns groups sign up and take part in the All-Ireland An Taisce Spring Clean Event. When the local community sees your volunteers in their high-vis vests picking litter, removing weeds and clearing debris from the roads it reminds them to be attentive to their own waste disposal methods. It is also wonderful to see that second class from Crinkill NS participate in the Picker Pals. Hopefully this is an annual event for the children from that school which will lead to them being aware of litter and fly-tipping. Again a large group of high-vis vests on the streets for all to see. We see that in addition to your volunteers you also have workers through the RSS, Tús and CE schemes. The stone celebrating the people of Crinkill Past and Present was quite dirty. We also recommend formalising the planting bed around it – it seems bit haphazard at present. Instead of planting in front of estate names e.g. Cribben Terrace, which can block the name, planting should only be to the sides and to the rear. Here tall flowers and shrubs can be grown, which will add to the estate name stone. Many of the road signs were extremely dirty. A brush and a bucket of water is all that's needed to keep these cleaned. Dog bins are no longer needed - nowadays, we just say 'Any bag, Any bin'. Remember that items such as bins, signs, etc. are clutter in your streetscape, so unless they are absolutely necessary, we recommend that you don't install them.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

On Barrack Street, there are single and two-storey vernacular houses which presented very well and we were delighted to see that many had recently painted their properties and also had very colourful window boxes, all of which added to the beauty of this street. Military Road is quite special – compliments to the residents for the presentation. We visited quite a number of the residential roads/estates, Cribben Terrace, Hawthorn Drive, Grove Street, An Corrán (compliments on the mural estate name), etc. and noted that here too some residents had recently painted their properties including garden walls, piers and gates, which gave a very fresh appearance to the streetscape. There were wonderful gardens in some of the estates. Colourful herbaceous borders, well-trimmed shrubs, ornamental trees – we saw them all. We suggest that you encourage homeowners to plant pollinator-friendly perennials. Visit the National Biodiversity website for further information https://biodiversityireland.ie/ and also https://pollinators.ie/gardens/ While you have a great number of trees along your streets some of the residential areas are lacking in them. Where there are communal green spaces, trees should be planted around the perimeter. We also recommend that some seating is installed so that parents and sit while their children play on the open area. You have some block/rendered walls in some of the residential areas which could become nature corridors if panted with a mix of ivy, pyracantha, honeysuckle, clematis Montana etc. In addition to becoming a biodiversity corridor this planting will eliminate the painting of the wall in addition to creating a pleasant environment for the residents.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Trees line many of your roads and make the village extremely pleasant. We entered the village from the north along the stunning tree lined Military Road and although this road has a 50K speed limit, cars were driving extremely quickly and well exceeded this limit. Is it time for you to ask Offaly Co Co to insert speed ramps or chicanes in order to stop this. We noted rumble strip and dropped kerbs at some of your road junctions. Will this be continued throughout all road junctions? These dipped kerbs facilitate those in wheelchairs or mobility scooters, those pushing buggies and young children on bicycles to safely cross roads. We see that you are on the Birr Cycle Hub Route 4A. This is wonderful. Has there been an increase in visitors to Crinkill due to this? We hope that businesses have benefited. We noted quite a number of roads where there was edge break up or potholes. In addition, road markings were extremely worn in quite a few areas. These should be brought to the attention of the Offaly Co Co area office. We noted a few empty poles along your streetscape. We recommend that you do a survey and ask that they be removed as they add clutter to your streetscape.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition. In the various categories in your application, the projects/actions as described were quite vague. Next year, please be more precise about exactly the work you undertake and the projects that you have completed or that you maintain.
It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Crinkill. This is the first time we have been in your village so it was wonderful to walk around and see the sites. We look forward to a return visit in the future.